

Sunday morning, we worshipped in the Newtown Dutch Reformed Church. The cornerstone of the original church is dated 1732. Four of the congregation members who contributed to the building of the first church (which was octagonal in shape in order to afford better protection) were Remsen Family members. One was Abraham Remsen (the direct ancestor of mine) and the other three were sons of his: the church members welcomed us most warmly.

Sunday afternoon, we went to the special Revolutionary War Encampment by the Historic Commands of the American Revolution at Green Field. Young men and women (and some not so young) were dressed in authentic reproductions of the uniforms worn by the Scottish, Hessian, and English soldiers. Michael Albetta (who was responsible for most of the enthusiasm, planning, and execution of the Encampment and Memorial Day parade and ceremony, (and who also was the visionary force behind cleaning up the cemetery and making Remsen Day a reality) personally escorted our family around the encampment. Each group of soldiers explained to us the history of their group (i.e., Scottish, Hessian, English Colonial), their uniforms, and the paraphernalia which accompanied each soldier. Bagpipes were played and Scottish dances were performed for our family.

Memorial Day, May 25, 1981, was proclaimed Remsen Day by Donald R. Manes, president of the Borough of Queens, City of New York. This was the day for the parade and the special ceremonies. American Legion Post #1424 was in charge of the affair. The parade was the largest in Long Island. There were 27 bands and 4,000 marchers. A limousine was provided for me to ride in the parade, accompanied by my daughter Marjorie. This was the first time I had ever ridden in a parade - let alone riding in a chauffeured limousine. The rest of the family marched with a DAR contingent.

The parade went along Metropolitan Avenue to Remsen Square. There we were escorted to the dignitaries' platform which has been erected at the Remsen Cemetery. Marjorie introduced our family to the assembled crowd. My son, Dr. Frederick Remsen Rude, gave a short speech. Then I was introduced and gave a little talk. This was another great thrill for me.